



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### GEORGIA HEALTH LITERACY MONTH

- WHEREAS: In Georgia, state leaders, academia, members of the medical community, and many employers have all identified improving health and wellness as a high priority; and
- WHEREAS: Health literacy is the capacity to seek out, comprehend, and apply information about health to make the best possible health decisions and improve overall well-being; and
- WHEREAS: Less than adequate health literacy may lead to improper utilization of health services and poor health outcomes including excess disease burden, increased mortality, and low satisfaction with health care; and
- WHEREAS: The economic burden of medical care and hospitalizations associated with less than adequate health literacy imposes significant hardships on the State of Georgia, businesses, and families in terms of work and school days lost, as well as direct health care expenses; and
- WHEREAS: Health literacy is a stronger predictor of patient health outcomes than income, employment, education, or race and ethnicity. Increasing health literacy among all citizens may reduce health disparities and the burdens of many chronic and acute diseases and conditions for individuals, families, healthcare providers and systems, and the State of Georgia; and
- WHEREAS: Organizations such as the Georgia Alliance for Health Literacy are dedicated to promoting health literacy among residents, as well as health care providers and health care systems; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 2017 as GEORGIA HEALTH LITERACY MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 29<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF